

## Revelation 22

**1 And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.**

God has provided everything we could possibly need in eternity. The citizens of the New Jerusalem (and New Earth) will have a fresh supply of pure water. This is a literal river rather than symbolic. So many Christians think Heaven will be like some dreamy never-never land, instead, it is a real place. So, too, will everything described concerning the New Earth be real. This River of Life flows from the Throne of God and the Lamb.

Notice that Throne is in the singular. We will have a constant reminder that “[God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus](#)” (Philippians 4:19).

**2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.**

On either side of this river stands the Tree of Life. It seems that the river runs through the tree. It is apt that the River of Life waters the Tree of Life. This is the same tree of life that God planted in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:9).

Genesis 2:9 [And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden.](#)

Because of sin, man was not permitted to eat of it. God wanted man to eat the tree of eternal life, but for six thousand years no one has eaten its fruit – instead, all die because of sin. On the New Earth, where there is no sin, eternal life will be enjoyed by all. This tree has twelve different fruits. It never has an autumn, therefore it flourishes all year round forever.

Healing of the nations refers to eternal health. This simply means that there is no possibility of anyone ever getting ill. The food (leaves) from this tree keeps people healthy. Sickness, as we understand, is a product of sin and death. Since there will be no more pain, it follows that there can be no more sickness. The leaves are preventative medicine of a sort ... “And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine” (Ezekiel 47:12).

**3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:**

On this present earth man is cursed with sickness, ageing, deterioration and death, because of Adam's sin. But there will be no curse on the New Earth. The ground will be free from the curse (Genesis 3:17).

Genesis 3:17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life.

Man lost the presence of God because of the curse. In the New Earth the Throne (presence) of God and the Messiah will be with man.

**4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.**

Everyone will enjoy constant access to God. Imagine that one day we shall see Him! “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they

shall see God” (Matthew 5:8). Do you know why the Devil and Antichrist want to number everyone? They want to stop God writing His name in man’s forehead. You see, Satan really only counterfeits God. In the New Earth all of God’s children bear His name. We will always belong to Him.

**5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.**

No night, why? Because there is no sun or moon. There will never be any need for manmade artificial light. Why have the copy if you can have the real thing! Genesis chapter 1 tells us that in the beginning God created light. This light emanated from Him, since the sun was not created until the fourth day. This is eternal light. Just think, no electricity bills, ever!

**6 And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to show unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.**

As we reach the end of our study on the Book of Revelation, we are presented with eleven stirring facts. These facts hold true, not only for the Revelation, but also for the whole Bible. We should have come to realise that its message is not history past but history future; and that we may very well be the generation that will see all these things unfold.

### Fact 1:

The Message is Faithful and True because it comes from the one who is Faithful and True (Revelation 19:11).

Revelation 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

This fact is both a comfort and an encouragement to all who believe. It is not a fairy tale, nor is it a book of mystic symbolism. It is a reliable and trustworthy account of what is going to happen on this earth before, during, and after Christ's Millennial Reign. It is faithful and true because it agrees with the prophetic writings of the Old Testament.

**7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.**

### Fact 2:

The Message is a blessing because we know Jesus is coming soon. The promise which opened the Book of Revelation is repeated at the close of it (Revelation 1:3).

Revelation 1:3 **Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.**

The return of Christ isn't according to our perspective of time, instead, it is inline with God's predetermined timing. The "**day is at hand**" and the "**judge standeth at the door**" (James 5:9; Romans 13:12), indeed "**the end of all things is at hand**" (1 Peter 4:7). To us the Lord seems to be taking His time, especially since two thousand years have passed. There really is no delay, just an opportunity for more souls to be saved. "**The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance**" (2 Peter 3:9).

Many refuse to read, study and listen to the message of Revelation, therefore they can never receive the special blessing available for those who do. What is this blessing? It is fivefold ...

[1] A deeper awareness of the presence of the Lord.

[2] Being prepared and ready for the Lord's soon return.

[3] The ability to stand in the final days.

[4] An anticipation of Heaven's glories.

[5] A true thankfulness for salvation.

In fact, the blessings are endless to those who really take time to study this wonderful book.

**8 And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which showed me these things.**

### Fact 3:

The Message stirs up worship. John saw and heard all of these things. As he comes to the end of his prophetic visions, he has a desire to worship and praise. This should be our experience too. No wonder Satan does not want us to study this book.

This is the second time John bows before the angel bringing the message (Revelation 19:10).

Revelation 19:10 **And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**

He is about to receive a similar rebuke. We can understand why John was so awestruck with what he saw, but the worship of angels is a no-go-area for believers (Daniel 10:8).

Daniel 10:8 **Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength.**

**9 Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.**

True Christians worship none but God. We do not pray to or worship angels, or for that matter, men and women who have reached Heaven (Exodus 20:3-6).

Exodus 20:3-6 Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

We worship God alone, not Satan or the millions of false gods. The worshipping of angels is explicitly prohibited in Colossians 2:18.

Colossians 2:18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind.

Those who worship any other than the true God, reject the fact that Jesus died for their sins, refuse to live for Christ, reject the Scriptures, and reject any idea of Christ's return.

**10 And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.**

Fact 4:

The Message is to be studied by all. The book of Revelation is not for prophecy preachers alone, but all of God's people can at

the very least read it. All of God's people should know about the Last Days and the Return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The message should never be sealed up or removed from the Bible. No doubt some future new translation of the Bible will have the Book of Revelation removed from its pages (as did the early Catholic version). How can we be prepared for what is coming upon this earth if we do not bother to read and study this book? Daniel was told to seal up his prophecies because they were for another time in the future (Daniel 8:26; 12:4-10).

Daniel 8:26 *And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days.*

Daniel 12:4-10 *But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river. And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders? And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished. And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.*

But since we are in the end times, Revelation must be made plain through the preaching and teaching of it's message.



**11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.**

The time will come when it will be too late to read and study Revelation. It will then be too late to prepare for the Lord's return. All that will be left is a lost eternity. Those who reject Revelation will also fail to enter God's Kingdom. Everyone will meet God in the condition they die in, or are found in, when He returns. We can either be unjust and filthy or righteous and holy. The choice is ours. Notice, though, it is in context with understanding and studying the final book of the Bible. The decision we make will determine where we spend eternity.

**12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.**

#### Fact 5:

The Message concerns itself with the imminency of Christ's Return and Coming Judgement. We do not know, from our position on this side of the Rapture, when Christ will come, but we can be prepared and ready (Titus 2:13-14).

Titus 2:13-14 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

The Lord declares, "Behold, I come quickly." The idea is of the need for preparation in the hearts and lives of God's own. In turn, this message should be preached to the lost.

When He returns, judgement must follow (Revelation 20:11-15).

Revelation 20:11-15 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small



and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

This judgement is based upon everything each person has done. God rewards His own with life eternal, but the lost are doomed to eternal damnation. “For the Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and then shall He reward every man according to his works” (Matthew 16:27).

**13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.**

The Lord Jesus Christ will sit as the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End (Isaiah 44:6; 48:12).

Isaiah 44:6 Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.

Isaiah 48:12 Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; I am he; I am the first, I also am the last.

He knows all that there is to know about every person on earth. Nothing can be hidden from His eyes.

**14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.**

Fact 6:

The Message informs us about who will be accepted by the Lord. How do we know we will enter Heaven's glory? Once saved, always saved theology, without true and ongoing commitment to Christ, does not fit the teaching of Scripture. Only those who obey the Lord throughout their lives are the blessed ones, and this is proof that they love Him (John 14:15; 1 John 2:3-4).

John 14:15 *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

1 John 2:3-4 *And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*

Only they have the right to enjoy the blessedness of the redeemed. What kind of Christian is it that refuses to live for Christ, but relies upon some sinner's prayer uttered decades ago?

Those who have had their sins washed away through the Blood of the Lamb sacrificed on Calvary's Cross, are permitted to eat of the Tree of Life and enter into the Heavenly City (Hebrews 9:14; 1 Peter 1:18-19).

Hebrews 9:14 *How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

1 Peter 1:18-19 *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*

**15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.**

Fact 7:

The Message informs us about who are rejected by the Lord. These include homosexuals (dogs, see Deuteronomy 23:17-18 below), occultists (all who practice the dark arts, spiritism, astrology, and other forms of witchcraft whether white or black), those involved in perverted practices, murderers, idol worshippers, and all deceivers. The word “dog” highlights the flagrant rejection and perversion of God’s moral laws.

Deuteronomy 23:17-18 **There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel. Thou shalt not bring the hire of a whore, or the price of a dog, into the house of the Lord thy God for any vow: for even both these are abomination unto the Lord thy God.**

None of these can enter Christ’s Kingdom unless they repent of these wicked things. They are lost, and are rejected by God, and destined to spend eternity in the Lake of Fire.

**16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.**

#### Fact 8:

This is the first time that the “churches” are mentioned since Revelation 3:22.

Revelation 3:22 **He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.**

This is because the church is not on earth during the intervening chapters relating to the Tribulation period,

The Message is a Proclamation of Christ as the only Messiah and King (2 Samuel 7:12-14; Matthew 22:41-46).

2 Samuel 7:12-14 **And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall**

proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men.

Matthew 22:41-46 While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The Son of David. He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? If David then call him Lord, how is he his son? And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions.

The Revelation is Christ's message to His Church and to the world. It is not to be seen as a series of visions concerning last day events only. More importantly it is the revelation of Jesus Christ Himself. It declares what He says and who He is. So many miss this point when studying the book. No wonder they cannot understand its message. The church must proclaim Him to be the Messiah and Coming King, just as Revelation describes Him to be.

He is the "Star" prophesied about in Numbers 24:17.

Numbers 24:17 I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.

His coming would illuminate mankind (John 1:5-9).

John 1:5-9 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that

Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts” (2 Peter 1:19). Since Satan’s sin and fall, he has masqueraded as “an angel of light” (2 Corinthians 11:14; and Isaiah 14:12).

Isaiah 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

He will be cast into the Lake of Fire where he will not deceive anyone again.

**17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.**

### Fact 9:

The Message offers the Greatest Invitation. The offer of eternal life must be the most important invitation anyone could receive. This message is proclaimed by the Holy Spirit, but so few in our churches preach this good news today. We must unite with God’s Holy Spirit in inviting the lost to come to Christ. Only He can quench their thirst and supply all their need. This free gift is not received where it is not preached.

I can do no better than quote from Charles Spurgeon on this verse. The text is taken from June 13, Morning and Evening. “Jesus says, “take freely.” He wants no payment or preparation. He seeks no recommendation from our virtuous emotions. If you have no good feelings, if you be but willing, you are invited; therefore come! You have no belief and no repentance,-come to Him, and He will give them to you. Come just as you are, and take “Freely,” without money and without price. He gives Himself

to needy ones. The drinking fountains at the corners of our streets are valuable institutions; and we can hardly imagine any one so foolish as to feel for his purse, when he stands before one of them, and to cry, "I cannot drink because I have not five pounds in my pocket." However poor the man is, there is the fountain, and just as he is he may drink of it. Thirsty passengers, as they go by, whether they are dressed in fustian or in broadcloth, do not look for any warrant for drinking; its being there is their warrant for taking its water freely. The liberality of some good friends has put the refreshing crystal there and we take it, and ask no questions. Perhaps the only persons who need go thirsty through the street where there is a drinking fountain, are the fine ladies and gentlemen who are in their carriages. They are very thirsty, but cannot think of being so vulgar as to get out to drink. It would demean them, they think, to drink at a common drinking fountain: so they ride by with parched lips. Oh, how many there are who are rich in their own good works and cannot therefore come to Christ! "I will not be saved," they say, "in the same way as the harlot or the swearer." What! go to heaven in the same way as a chimney sweep. Is there no pathway to glory but the path which led the thief there? I will not be saved that way. Such proud boasters must remain without the living water; but, "WHOSOEVER WILL, LET HIM TAKE THE WATER OF LIFE FREELY."

**18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:**

#### Fact 10:

The Message must not be tampered with. This important book should never be twisted to fit human ideas about God. This solemn warning is very emphatic. We must not add to it or take away from it. It is a very serious sin against God to change His Word (Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32; Proverbs 30:6).



Deuteronomy 4:2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Deuteronomy 12:32 What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

Proverbs 30:6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

Those who add to it will suffer the plagues mentioned in the book. That is, they will be lost and doomed to eternal torment. That's how highly God places His Word.

**19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.**

Those who take away from it are equally doomed. Many take away from its message by making it historical or mystical. The Reformed and Roman Churches have a habit of doing this dirty deed. Also, some pastors play down the importance of Revelation, or rarely mention it.

**20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**

Fact 11:

The Message closes with a wonderful assurance. This assurance is threefold:

[1] What we have read is the Word of the Lord Jesus Christ. As Christians, we should be confident that Revelation is absolutely true because Jesus said so. When the Lord speaks we should



listen and pay attention. The words are not from the imaginations of men, but from the heart of God.

[2] The Lord is coming soon. This is the root of the word *Maranatha*, which was a form of greeting in the first century church. This should delight our hearts enough to say, “Come soon, Lord!” (see 2 Timothy 4:8).

2 Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

A believer with the assurance and awareness of His coming is an overcomer. All we need to do, while we await His return, is to “occupy” ourselves in the knowledge and preaching of His Word (Luke 19:13; 1 John 2:28).

Luke 19:13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

1 John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

**21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.**

[3] The grace of God is upon all who accept these words as being faithful and true (Revelation 1:3; 3:14).

Revelation 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Revelation 3:14 These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God.

Whoever calls upon His name receives the blessed gift of salvation (Romans 10:13).

Romans 10:13 [For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.](#)

True followers of Christ are assured of God's richest blessings in their lives and throughout eternity. Amen! So be it – it is true – you'd better believe it!